

Testimony concerning Bill #
committee name April 1, 2015

Sandra J Bannon ACO
Town of Westbrook
866 Boston Post Rd.
Westbrook, CT 06498
860-790-1075

I would like to thank the judicial community for
the opportunity to express my support of bill # SB
1128 Hearing date 4/1/15

.

I have been in the Animal Care and Control field
now for 17 years. Over these years I have
investigated many cases of animal cruelty and
neglect. In all but one of these cases the result
was in Accelerated Rehabilitation. Without getting
into to the gory details, I can tell you first hand
that the punishments did not fit the crimes.

my most recent case, November, 30 2014, Town of
Westbrook vs Calabrese, I charged a woman with 2
counts of animal cruelty. The charged owner stopped
feeding and providing water for her horses. The
reason I was given is that it just was getting too
difficult for her. So instead of looking for help,
she just stopped. The two horses stood in thier dark
stalls for months. This barn was attached to a garage
and was completely covered in junk. They parked
thier cars there daily right next to the horses
stalls. The feces had risen to a stamped down level
that one of the horses was able to step over his

barrier and go searching for food and water. To the right of this one horses stall was an open door to the outside. This horse turned left and headed to where water, hay and grain used to be. He got himself tangled up in tons of debris and fell. he was left there lying for days. When he was finally discovered it was too late. Upon my arrival he was still alive but too weak to be uprighted. His body condition was a 1 on the Henneke scale. In layman terms, this horse was a skeleton. He was suffering and ultimately had to be euthanized. The charged owner had no remorse or emotion at all. The other horse was taken to another facility and many months later has made a miraculous recovery. This owner recieved 2 years probation. After this time her record will be clean. If she is to do this again to any animal in the future, there will be no previous history for the next law enforcement agency to refer to. She will likely be treated again as a first time offender. This person knowingly neglected these horses and recieves no real consequence. This is unacceptable. It sends a message to those people who choose to do poorly by the animals that depend on them for life that if they get caught neglecting or cruelly treating an animal its no big deal. They will get probation and charges dismissed.

That is just one example. I have seen this type of thing over and over again without any changes to how the courts handle these cases and the people charged with animal cruelty/ neglect. This crime needs to be treated more seriously.

I thank you for reading this testimony. I strongly urge that you support this important piece

of legislation.

Thank You,

Sandra J. Bannon ACO

Town of Westbrook Animal Control